Spare parts for aircrafts

2359. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has to incur an expenditure of around Rs. 200 crores in foreign exchange every year for procurement of spares for maintenance of the Soviet fleet of aircrafts with the Indian Air Force;

(b) if so, the actual expenditure, indicating its forex content, incurred on this account during the last three years; and

(c) what steps have been and are being taken to indigenise maintenance and spares for the Russian fleet of aircrafts with IAF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N. V. N. SOMU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)

	(Rupees in crores)
1994-95	280
1995-96	277
1996-97	417

(c) Efforts are being made to produce increasing quantities of spares within the country by HAL and private agencies. More and more indigenous vendors are being identified and encouraged to manufacture aircraft components. There is a Task Group specifically set up to identify and indigenise aircraft spares to increase self reliance in these areas.

Attractive package to Defence Personnel

2360. SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of posts are lying vacant in defence since long;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps Government have taken to fulfil the vacant posts;

(d) whether Government have any plan to give the attractive package to defence personnel which will attract youth to choose a career in defence services; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N. V. N. SOMU): (a) to (e) The vacancy position in respect of three services as on 31-12-96 is given below:

	Officers	Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR)
Army	12,972	55,263
Navy	690	2,782
Air Force	1,045	5,876